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Published AY 21-22

School of Life Sciences / Department of Microbiology

BioHealth Sciences

Positively impacting
local, regional and
global health



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
ACADEMIC BROCHURE



Where will your impact be?

The Department of Microbiology at Oregon State University is home to world-renowned faculty who are producing ground-breaking research in infectious disease and are outstanding teachers. The BioHealth Sciences (BHS) major provides students with a well-rounded foundation for a career in healthcare and for success in professional school.

BHS majors learn from world-class faculty who have an extensive tradition of teaching students interested in the health professions or in conducting medically relevant research. This undergraduate major leads to a Bachelor of Science degree in BioHealth Sciences.

Human health and well-being are complex issues influenced by individual health and social, economic and political forces. Leveraging their scientific knowledge, our students explore solutions to some of the most pressing health challenges facing society. They engage in learning through exceptional science courses and dynamic, interactive lab courses. New students participate in an in-depth orientation and a career preparation course to become acquainted with the field.

Student success

Our professional advisors help students make solid academic decisions by sharing current developments in healthcare and professional school admissions requirements.

Advisors meet and consult with students on an individual basis regarding course selection, experiential opportunities, and the admissions process for professional schools.



Research, internships and volunteering

The BHS major is designed to provide strong preparation for success in professional health disciplines. Many students get involved in research related to human health and biomedical discovery while others develop their own research project guided by a faculty mentor. Students learn to formulate hypotheses, design experiments and analyze data as well as prepare and communicate their research. Such skills are foundational to success in many careers across science.

BHS students participate in volunteer and internship opportunities at the local, national and international levels. Our students interact with healthcare and industry professionals to gain hands-on experience and skills and to explore potential career paths through job shadowing.

By shadowing a health professional, students get a first-hand look at actual healthcare careers which can reveal insights that help them define their career interests before they apply to professional schools. The Health Professions Internship helps BHS students earn academic credit for on-the-job learning and start making a difference in the health of people and communities.

Science student activities

The BioHealth Science Student Association offers students extracurricular experiences, outreach activities and social events. The Bioethics Society educates students about controversial ethical issues emerging from advances in biology and medicine. Students join pre-health student organizations on campus to sharpen their career interest and their understanding of a specific profession.

For current course requirements, refer to the OSU General Catalog online.



Sample curriculum

General and Organic
Chemistry
Biology
Math
Statistics

Job shadowing

Psychology/Sociology
Writing
Communications
Anatomy and Physiology
Physics
Cell and Molecular Biology
Study abroad

Microbiology
Biochemistry
Genetics
Medical Terminology

Many of our graduates continue their education in:

- Clinical laboratory science
- Dentistry
- Medicine
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Physician assistant
- Physical therapy
- Podiatry

What can you do with a degree in BioHealth Sciences?

Contribute to the health and wellness of local and global communities with a career that provides care and services that improve and protect human health.

The BioHealth Sciences major is designed for students interested in learning the science that serves as the foundation for careers in human health professions. This rich learning illuminates the science behind our understanding of medical treatments, the origins of disease and the research for future cures. This combined training in general biology and human health can be a springboard to a wide range of career paths for students.

Graduates are career ready

Most of our BioHealth Sciences majors continue their education in professional schools to gain advanced training in direct patient care. Thirty percent of BioHealth Sciences students are in OSU's pre-pharmacy program. The remaining BioHealth Sciences students explore their interests in tackling human health issues through multidisciplinary approaches and stretch their career boundaries into the community level.

Our graduates' contributions help improve and protect human health by accelerating biomedical research and technology, enhancing access to health services, promoting healthy lifestyles, building healthy communities, developing strategies for government agencies and more.

